GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
CAMPAIGN AGAINST DIABETES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that India has the largest number of diabetics in the world;

(b) if so, the number of persons afflicted with diabetes in the country;

(c) the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for an anti-diabetic movement, both in terms of health awareness, food habits and campaign to bring down the number of diabetic patients;

(d) whether the Government have consulted other developed nations where advanced research is providing new medicinal opportunities to prevent diabetics or to keep it under control; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): According to ICMR, the estimated number of diabetic patients in the country in the year 2000 is about 25 million. As per WHO projections, India will have about 57 million diabetics by 2025 which is going to be the highest in the world.

(c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot Project on `Strengthening of Bio-Chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance`, was initiated in 1999-2000 in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Punjab. The National Diabetes Control Programme has now been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research which has constituted an expert group to formulate a revised comprehensive Plan of Actionto control diabetes. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has also strategies/programme including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase public health awareness about diabetes.

(d) & (e): The revised Plan of Action for control of diabetes is being made by ICMR in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) after carefully examining the research being carried out in India and in other countries in the field of diabetes and also the control programmes being implemented in other countries.